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Serial No. 10/784,590
Response to Official Action

In the Drawings

Please amend FIG. 2 of the drawings as shown in the replacement sheet of the drawing. Both of a clean version and a marked-up version (revision shown in red) are enclosed hereto.

Remarks

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed May 3, 2005. By the foregoing Amendments, the Abstract, specification, drawings, and claims 1 and 4-5 have been amended, and claims 2 and 3 cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 4-6 are pending in this application. No new matter is added by the foregoing Amendments, and supports for the amendments can be found from throughout the specification, claims, and drawings as originally filed.

In reply to the Examiner's requirement re the foreign priority claim, Applicant encloses hereto a certified copy of the Korean application to which foreign priority is claimed by this application.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the disclosure because of certain informalities. Such informalities have been corrected by the foregoing Amendments.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. The claims, specification and drawings have been reviewed and amended by the foregoing Amendments to more particularly point out the invention and also to distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Claims 2 and 3 cancelled. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 4-6 currently pending in this application are in condition satisfying the requirements under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Reconsideration of the rejection is earnestly requested.

The Examiner has rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Denis (US Pat. No. 6,481,557). The Examiner has rejected claims 2 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denis (US Pat. No. 6,481,557) in view of Schumann et al. (US Pat. No. 6,253,894). The Examiner has also rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Denis (US Pat. No. 6,481,557) in view of Hochmuth et al. (US Pat. No.

5,896,973). However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's rejection to claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is moot in view of the fact that claim 3 is cancelled by the foregoing Amendments.

Applicant submits that claim 1 has been amended by the foregoing Amendments to more clearly point out and claim the subject matter of the invention, while also incorporating the subject matter of claim 2, which is in turn cancelled by the amendments.

Independent claim 1 as amended requires, among other elements, (i) that the roller assembly (of the clutch unit) includes an annular retainer ring with a plurality of rollers received in roller-receiving cavities formed at regular intervals in the annular retainer ring, and (ii) that the lever bracket has a spring hook protruding toward the base, where the spring hook of the lever bracket and a spring hook of the lower bracket are caught by a return spring adapted to return the adjusting lever in an original position.

As stated at Page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner has acknowledged that Denis (US Pat. No. 6,481,557) fails to disclose or teach the spring hook and the return spring, which is required by the above identified element (ii) of claim 1. The Examiner, however, has noted that Schumann et al. (US Pat. No. 6,253,894) disclose spring hooks 92, 101 for engagement with return spring 15.

However, neither Denis nor Schumann et al. does disclose or teach the above identified element (i) of claim 1 as amended (i.e., that the roller assembly includes an annular retainer ring with a plurality of rollers received in roller-receiving cavities formed at regular intervals in the annular retainer ring). As illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 4-8, along with paragraph [00037], for example, the present invention as claimed in claim 1 particularly requires that the roller assembly has an annular retainer ring with a plurality of rollers received in regularly spaced roller-receiving cavities of the retainer ring, which is

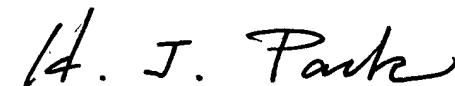
a very important feature of the invention for proper operation of the seat cushion adjusting device. For instance as illustrated in the preferred embodiment shown in FIGS. 2 and 5, having six rollers 531 received within six roller-receiving cavities 517-2 disposed at regular intervals in annular retainer ring 517-1 of the roller assembly 517, which engage with lever block 518 rotatably received in the annular retainer ring 517-1, the seat cushion adjusting device of the invention can provide a secured and reliable adjusting operation of the seat cushion. These features of the claimed invention are not disclosed or taught in any of the cited references of record, including Denis and Schumann et al.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing, claim 1 and its dependent claims (i.e., claims 1 and 4-6) are patentable over the references.

Lastly, Applicant respectfully acknowledges the Examiner's indication of allowability of claim 6 if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, discussed above, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, in view of the foregoing Amendments and remarks, all of the claims currently pending (i.e., claims 1 and 4-6) are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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